

MINUTES OF STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER
Longburrow Hall, Stokenchurch
7.30pm

Attended by), Cllr Nuthall (Chairman), Cllr Camilla Baker, Cllr Tracey Young, Cllr Racquel Burnham, Cllr Ryan Pearse, Cllr John McNeill, Cllr Tracy Ramsden, Cllr Val Jenkinson

10 members of the public in attendance

Acceptance of apologies for absence

Cllr Ghost & Bucks CC Cllr Etholen & Louise Steel (acting RFO)

The chairman notified the council that this meeting was being recorded.

2) Declaration of interest (Agenda items)

Cllr Jenkinson – bills payable

3) To confirm minutes of 28th Oct and 6th Nov 2024

The minutes for 28th Oct were proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Jenkinson. Agreed by all.

The minutes for 6th Nov were proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Jenkinson. Agreed by all.

4) Open public forum

A parishioner related to Stokenchurch Primary School spoke up about commencing works at the school to add a cover to the swimming pool. This cover would enable the pool to be used all year round and open to the public. The parishioner mentioned at this stage they are in planning consultations and wanted to make the council aware and understand if any grant funding is available locally. The aim is to be completed and usable by Sept 2025. This planning application was subsequently agreed as no comments from a Council perspective. Chairman Nuthall asked questions of the parishioner regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the pool and how the school intends to meet it.

A second parishioner expressed concerns around a Cllr acting as Clerk for the Parish and discrepancies on our website re meetings. Cllr Nuthall reassured the parishioner that the process for doing so is legal, been fully ratified in council and within the Local Government Act 1972. Cllr Nuthall went on to express the council is working hard to continue delivering for the Parish and aspects like our website are managed by a third party and any discrepancies are corrected at the pace in which the third party responds. This parishioner continued on to mention potholes in the carpark at Longburrow hall. Cllr Nuthall expressed works cannot commence until a leak in the Churchyard has been fixed. A third parishioner also mentioned website discrepancies and Cllr Nuthall reiterated the site is managed by a third party and corrections/adjustments/uploads are only possible through them and when they respond. Note – Our website is on the agenda for Januarys Full Council meeting.

Cllr Nuthall closed the public session.

5) Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Carrington – Broadband Conversations resuming in January. Mudds Bank Landowners were issued a warning letter and will receive a 215 notice from planning enforcement in January, they will have 28 days to respond. Pension Credit surgeries are available across Buckinghamshire – see Bucks CC website. Christmas Angels, Bucks CC is working with One Can Trust, Inspire Bucks, Chiltern Foodbank and Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse this Christmas and parishioners donating to one of those will have added impact due to the scheme. Family Network Hubs will be opening 3 venues in Buckinghamshire, focused on financial advice, parenting, wellbeing, child development and mental health. More to follow.

Cllr Adoh – A letter from our MP addressing the Kings Hotel has been posted. The secretary of state and chair of Bucks County Council are fully aware. However, it is private property so cautiously approaching the topic is

important. Cllr Nuthall mentioned being in contact with individuals who assess the risk around the property. A re-assessment of carpark safety is in the works. Cllr Nuthall also requested of Bucks Councillors that debris from road re-surfacing by Bucks CC is removed.

6) Finance

- a. Bills Payable – This was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Ramsden and seconded Cllr Baker. Prev Bills payable re-signed after being misplaced in the Clerks office. Proposed by Cllr Jenkinson, seconded Cllr Ramsden. Agreed.
- b. Monthly Accounts. Deferred to January meeting due to RFO not being able to attend.
- c. Annual Precept - Provisional Precept figure discussed, awaiting calculator from Bucks CC. To be formally agreed January 2025.
- d. SPC Financial Regulations Revision – Agreed regulations. Proposed by Cllr Thomas, Seconded by Cllr Baker.
- e. Financial Controls Policy/Checklist – Agreed Policy. Proposed Cllr Jenkinson, Seconded Cllr Ramsden.

7) Dignity at Work Policy

Cllr McNeill expressed a query on some wording. Council agreed to defer to January 2025.

8) Revised Standing Orders.

Deferred to January 2025 due to RFO being unable to attend.

9) Kings Hotel Update.

No Internal update. Only Bucks CC update above.

10) SMC Rent Renewal.

Cllr Nuthall expressed rent renewal upcoming for SMC. Increasing income was discussed in the Finance Working Group and the outcome is a meeting with the owner of SMC arranged for February 2025.

11) Busy Bees Rent Renewal.

Cllr Nuthall mentioned Busy Bees are aware rent renewal is upcoming and are happy with a rent review being held. Further discussion on this renewal to be held in a Finance Working Group meeting.

12) Perry Pond Valuation.

Cllr Baker stated that Perry Pond is common land and is currently rented to the adjacent bungalow for £10PA. It has been suggested that we receive a land valuation for the site and determine whether it is worth selling the land and utilising the funds elsewhere. It was agreed to pursue a process that gets the land evaluated.

13) Electricity Lighting Renewal.

Cllr Jenkinson queried why this was back on the agenda and Cllr Nuthall stated that our original supplier no longer cover street lighting and that is why it's back for the approval of an alternative supplier. Cllr Nuthall outlined the suppliers and the council agreed a 1 year term with Drax. Proposed by Cllr Baker, Seconded by Cllr McNeill.

14) Bollards Quotation.

Deferred to January 2025 over a lack of immediate clarity on the subject.

15) Allotment Toilets Cost/Grant

Cllr Burnham and Cllr Thomas proposed arranging a portable toilet for the allotments in Stokenchurch to cover 6mo of the year. This is in response to parishioners having to cut allotment time short to relieve themselves. Having facilities would enable families to stay for longer and in turn promote health and wellbeing. The council addressed concerns about vandalism, which were alleviated by Cllr Burnham and Thomas by utilising a coded lock. Cllr Burnham and Thomas outlined the call out charges for cleaning the facility. The annual cost was outlined and the council unanimously agreed more quotations are needed but in principle it is a good idea. More quotations will be sought and brought back to council for consideration in January 2025.

16) Longburrow Hall Playground Cost/Grant

Cllr Burnham is to work with the Playground working group to seek quotations for playground equipment at Longburrow Hall.

17) Litter Picking

Cllr Burnham and Cllr Thomas expressed the success of the recent litter pick in the village. A huge amount of rubbish has now been removed from in and around the Kings Hotel. Cllr Burnham is to arrange further dates in the new year. Cllr Thomas took this opportunity to mention Mudds Bank and the overgrown footpath leading to Studley Green. The council agreed we have pushed Bucks County Council on this and even with the works they have done it is still not as safe as it could be. Cllr Thomas is to liaise with Bucks County Council to forge a sustainable path ahead.

18) Hall Bookings

Cllr Jenkinson alongside Cllr Nuthall outlined a return to pen and paper for hall bookings in order to simplify the internal process and maximise bookings in the hall to in turn benefit the parish as a whole.

19) Mill Road – Plantings on the grass verge

Cllr Pearse brought up a grass verge on Mill Road and the fact it is being used for planting. Cllr Pearse mentioned a parishioner who's property has been affected by it. The council conversed to seek clarity on the usage of the verge. Cllr Burnham mentioned a neighbouring property to the verge and the usage they have of the area and how it shouldn't be affected by this decision. The council agreed the verges can be used to plant and grow but it must be of an appropriate height and usage. Cllr Baker proposed that we grant the ability to cut the hedge back as long as the individual who has planted it is made aware first. This was unanimously agreed.

20) 2025 Fun Fair return – 6th – 13th July 2025

Council unanimously agreed to the return of the fun fair.

21) Memorial Plaque for the common

Addition of a name onto an existing plaque on the common. Agreement to this was proposed by Cllr Young Seconded Cllr Thomas and agreed unanimously.

22) Internment of ashes into E25 plot

Addition of ashes into an existing plot, council unanimously agreed.

23) Planning

24/07584/FUL - Application for: Householder application for demolition of existing rear lean-to and construction of single story side and rear extension.

47 Eastwood Road, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3SN - Mr & Mrs Taylor

- Council had no objections.

24/07485/FUL - Application for: Construction of enclosure over existing swimming pool.

Stokenchurch Primary School, George Road, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3RN- Ms Abigail Mayo

- Council had no objections.

24/07396/FUL - Application for: Householder application for construction of home garden office to front garden.

16 Mead Platt, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3PZ - Dr Claire Brown

- Comments deferred to January 2025

24/07707/FUL - Application for: Householder application for construction part-single part-two storey extensions to front, side and rear, enlargement of driveway and patio to rear.

Lillyfield, 1 Lowes Close, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3TN - Mr & Mrs Stevens

- Comments deferred to January 2025

24) Any Other Business (report only)

Cllr McNeill chased on Swilley Pond and a letter that the council has sent. Cllr Nuthall stated we have had no response. Cllr McNeill said he will be chasing this.

Cllr McNeill brought up 2025 best kept village and how we want Stokenchurch to dominate, Cllr Nuthall mentioned discussions about this have been held in the Finance Working Group.

Cllr McNeill wanted an update on green space devolution documents, Cllr Nuthall stated they are available in the Parish Office.

Cllr Young mentioned the Accessible (disabled) parking space is constantly occupied outside Longburrow Hall and Parishioners feel they are unable to utilise it, if necessary, as blue badge holders. Putting a Blue Badge Holders sign up was floated as an idea and is something we will endeavour to do.

Cllr Young mentioned the frontage of CJs stores and how it may detract from the village in terms of Best Kept Village 2025. It was expressed that the bins and post-box are covered in vape stickers and it seems sweeping up outside isn't a consistent job. The council felt a gentle letter could promote further cleanliness and aid us in achieving Best Kept Village 2025.

Cllr Baker Confirmed the church has received a grant towards the repair of drainage in the church yard.

25) Item/s for next agenda

Quote for trees to be trimmed back outside The Kings Hotel.

PC Website management

Unpaid Work in the village (Community Service Payback)

Meeting Closed.